

Regular Meeting of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization
Washington Conservation District, 455 Hayward Ave N
Thursday, September 12th, 2024
6:00PM

Present: Brian Zeller, Lakeland Shores; Tom McCarthy, Lake St. Croix Beach; Ryan Collins, Stillwater; Rachel Dana, West Lakeland; Dave Millard, Lakeland; Carly Johnson, Oak Park Heights; Beth Olfelt-Nelson, St. Mary's Point; Administrator Matt Oldenburg-Downing; Amanda Herbrand, WCD
Audience: Dawn Bulera, Paul Spilseth

Call to Order

Manager Zeller called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Approval of Agenda

Manager Johnson motioned to approve the agenda. Manager Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Manager McCarthy motioned to approve the draft August 8th, 2024 board meeting minutes, Manager Johnson seconded the motion. Manager Olfelt-Nelson abstained from the vote. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Manager Olfelt-Nelson presented the treasurer's report. The remaining checking account balance on September 12th was \$166,022.99. First Bank CD's were valued at \$213,549.15. The ending value on the RBC savings account from August was \$95,977.94. Manager Zeller motioned to approve the report of the savings account and assets for September 12th, 2024. Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Bills to approve this month are three bills to the Washington Conservation District totaling \$13,180.97. Manager Collins motioned to approve payment of bills for \$13,180.97 for September 12th, 2024. Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

All communities have paid their first half contributions. Afton, Bayport, and Lake St. Croix Beach have paid their second half contributions.

Public Comment

None

Watershed Management Plan Update

None

Old Business

WMO Legal Services

This item was tabled last meeting. Administrator Oldenburg-Downing asks the board if they've reached a decision regarding legal services. Manager Johnson motions to approve retaining Troy Gilchrist as the WMO's attorney at his previous rate. Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

2024 Second Half Contribution Requests

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing was not in attendance at the last meeting and asks the board for clarification regarding the 2024 second half contribution requests. In the previous meeting it was stated that the requests had been sent out to member communities, but they had not.

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing asks the board if they would like them sent out or if board members would like to talk to their community staff independently. Manager Zeller states Administrator Oldenburg-Downing should send out the requests.

New Business

EMWREP Funding Structure

MSCWMO and other partners received a notice from EMWREP outlining the planned 2025 partner contributions. These proposed contributions have increased from the previous contract. The notice also outlines the current services and areas of focus for EMWREP and showcases new services and areas of focus moving forward. Administrator Oldenburg-Downing notes that EMWREP hasn't increased their rates in many years.

Board members discuss and raise concerns that MSCWMO may not be receiving enough direct benefits to justify paying the increased cost. Administrator Oldenburg-Downing states he's raised these concerns already to WCD and EMWREP staff.

Board members note that the MSCWMO budget for 2025 has already been approved, and that they would not be willing to pay the increased rate in 2025 but would be open to it for 2026.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve the new requested MSCWMO contribution to EMWREP for 2026. Manager Olfelt-Nelson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Grant and Cost Share Applications

Bayport Water Quality Improvements

The City of Bayport is applying for the Landscaping for Water Quality Grant to stabilize a 300 linear-foot stretch of Perro Creek at Perro Park to reduce soil loss, restore native habitat, and prevent anticipated bank failure upstream of the Perro Creek diversion. The requested costshare will help cover the cost of supplemental seed and streambank stabilization materials in support of the project, which is being pursued in partnership with the Washington Conservation District under an FY22 Clean Water Fund grant. Stabilization techniques include a combination of rock toe armoring and upland buffer restoration to protect banks from high flows while enhancing habitat for wildlife. The City has received two quotes for project installation: Miller Excavating Inc. (\$56,240.65), and Kusz Contracting LLC (\$32,098.63). The City has selected Kusz Contracting LLC to install the project.

This project is prioritized within the 2013 Perro Creek Stormwater Retrofit Analysis, and will be

funded in part by the Washington Conservation District (up to \$20,000). Total project estimate is \$32,098.63, requested cost share is \$5,000.00.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve encumbrance of \$5,000.00 in cost share for the installation of the Perro Creek Stabilization & Buffer Restoration project, Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Deziel Native Planting

Bayport resident Sarah Deziel is applying for the Landscaping for Habitat Grant to install native herbaceous perennials and shrubs in a native planting on her property. The planting will be approximately 500 sq ft in size and install 500 native flowers, grasses, sedges and shrubs.

Total project estimate is \$1050.00, cost share requested is \$250.00.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve encumbrance of \$250.00 cost share for the installation of the Deziel Native Planting project, Manager Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

LSCB Water Quality Improvement Reimbursement

On July 11th the MSCWMO board approved cost share encumbrance of up to \$5,000 for the Lake St. Croix Beach shoreline stabilization project to repair and enhance areas of bank failure north of the existing levee. The city has submitted a paid invoice for work completed in August of 2024 (installation of 90 linear feet of riprap with native seeding above), totaling \$30,000.00. WCD staff have determined the project meets installation standards and approve of the request for reimbursement.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve reimbursement of \$5,000.00 cost share for the Lake St. Croix Beach Shoreline Stabilization project. Manager Olfelt-Nelson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Plan Reviews/Submittals

Bayport Elementary School – ACTION

Submittal items were received on August 21st, 2024 for proposed Bayport Elementary School within the MSCWMO boundaries and the City of Bayport. The proposed project qualifies for full review under the MSCWMO 2015 Watershed Management Plan (WMP) since it involves disturbance of approximately 11.6 acres and 4.2 acres of new/reconstructed impervious surfaces. Stormwater is proposed to be treated and retained in four biofiltration basins. The filtration basins do not provide volume control for the full water quality volume required by MSCWMO performance standards and the applicants pursued compliance with flexible treatment option #2 since the project site is within a high vulnerability drinking water source management area (DWSMA). The site is however outside of the emergency response area (ERA) and per MPCA requirements must perform a higher level of engineering review to determine if infiltration is appropriate for the site. In addition, the H&H model submitted requires corrections and did not demonstrate compliance with rate control and wetland inundation standards. The MSCWMO staff recommends revise and resubmittal for this project.

Manager Johnson motions that an acceptable higher level of engineering review needs to be provided along with a detailed response. Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Emergency Housing Services Building – INFORM

A resubmittal for previously approved Emergency Housing Services Building was received on August 27th. The resubmittal was requested because the design elevations of the underground storage system was revised as a result of a value engineering review. The revised underground storage system still meets applicable MSCWMO performance standards.

Baylon Residence – INFORM

A previously approved reconstruction for an existing residence, pool, shed, deck and boathouse was inspected by MSCWMO staff and earth disturbance beyond the extent in the reviewed and approved plans that extends into the bluffline setback was observed. Further details can be found in the erosion and sediment control section of the board packet.

Erosion and Sediment Control Inspection Reports

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing and the board discussed the Baylon Residence from the previous item. The most recent erosion control inspection from the site shows a grade of “D” which states “the site is not in compliance. Erosion and sediment control practices are in poor condition and controllable water resources or off-site impacts are likely.” At the time of the inspection, there was a large amount of open soil on the slope near the bluffline and perimeter controls were missing at the edge of areas of open soil. Since the inspection the area has been stabilized with sod. The board discussed options such removing the newly installed turf and replacing with native vegetation, but acknowledge the potential for doing more harm than good by re-exposing the soil. Administrator Oldenburg-Downing states that a compromise would be requiring some shrubs to be planted in the sloped area to help hold soils in place better than turf grass alone. Administrator Oldenburg-Downing states that at a minimum he’d like to discuss some options with the community representative before giving recommendations.

Manager Johnson motions the approve Administrator Oldenburg-Downing preparing a list of recommendations to discuss with Manager Zeller to send out to the City. Manager Zeller seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

The two remaining erosion control inspection reports in the packet had grades of “B” meaning the sites were in compliance but some minor maintenance was required.

Staff Report

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing presented the staff report. Work is ongoing on the 10-Year Management Plan Update. Water monitoring, erosion control, and BMP maintenance all continue as normal and will continue as normal until the end of the season.

1W1P Updates

Representative Appointments

None

Other

None

Adjourn

Manager Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting, Manager McCarthy seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58.